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ARGEMONE OCHROLEUCA (PAPAVERACEAE) NATURALIZED IN DAHOD DISTRICT, GUJARAT, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Argemone ochroleuca **Sweet is newly observed as naturalized in Dahod District, Gujarat, India. Photographs of the plant are provided.**

KEY WORDS: *Argemone ochroleuca*, **new record, non-native, Motizari, Piplod, Gujarat, India**

An extensive field survey was undertaken during year 2012-13 in areas of Dahod District (20°30′–23°30′ N and 73°15′–74°30′ E), Gujarat State. During this survey, I collected plant species that were not previously recorded in flora of Gujarat State (Shah 1978). Preliminary identification of the collections was made in the field, then further study was undertaken using published literature and floristic works (Saxton & Sedgwick 1918; Sutaria 1941; Cooke 1958; Patel 1971; Shah 1978; Raghavan et al. 1981; Patel 2004).

Argemone L. (Papaveraceae) is represented by two naturalized species in India, *A. mexicana* L. and *A. ochroleuca* Sweet., but only *A. mexicana* has been recorded for the flora of Gujarat state. The occurrence there of *A. ochroleuca* is documented in my recent survey.

Argemone ochroleuca Sweet. (Mexican poppy, prickly poppy, white prickly poppy, pale Mexican poppy) Voucher. **INDIA. Dahod District, Gujarat.** Motizari village, near Piplod, 22.81° N, 73.91° E, open field, abundant, associated with *Argemone mexicana*, 209 m alt., 11 Apr 2013, *Patel PKP00701* (DBSCG). The plant specimen is located in Department of Botany, SPT Arts & Science College, Godhra, Gujarat.

FIGURE: 1: *Argemone ochroleuca* Sweet in Field

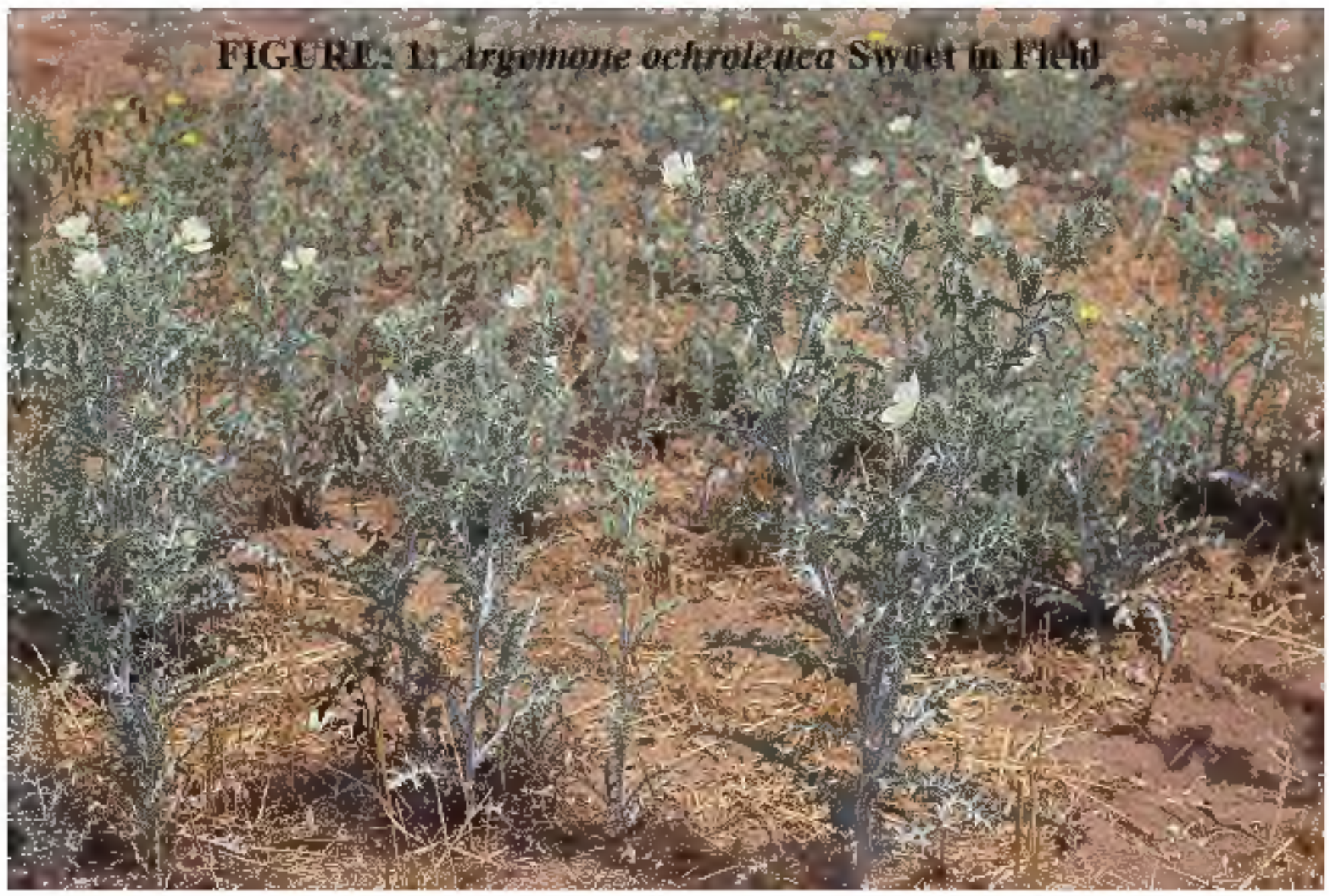

FIGURE: 2: Whole Plant
Argemone ochroleuca Sweet

FIGURE: 3:
Leaf - *Argemone ochroleuca*

FIGURE: 4:
Flower - *Argemone ochroleuca* Sweet

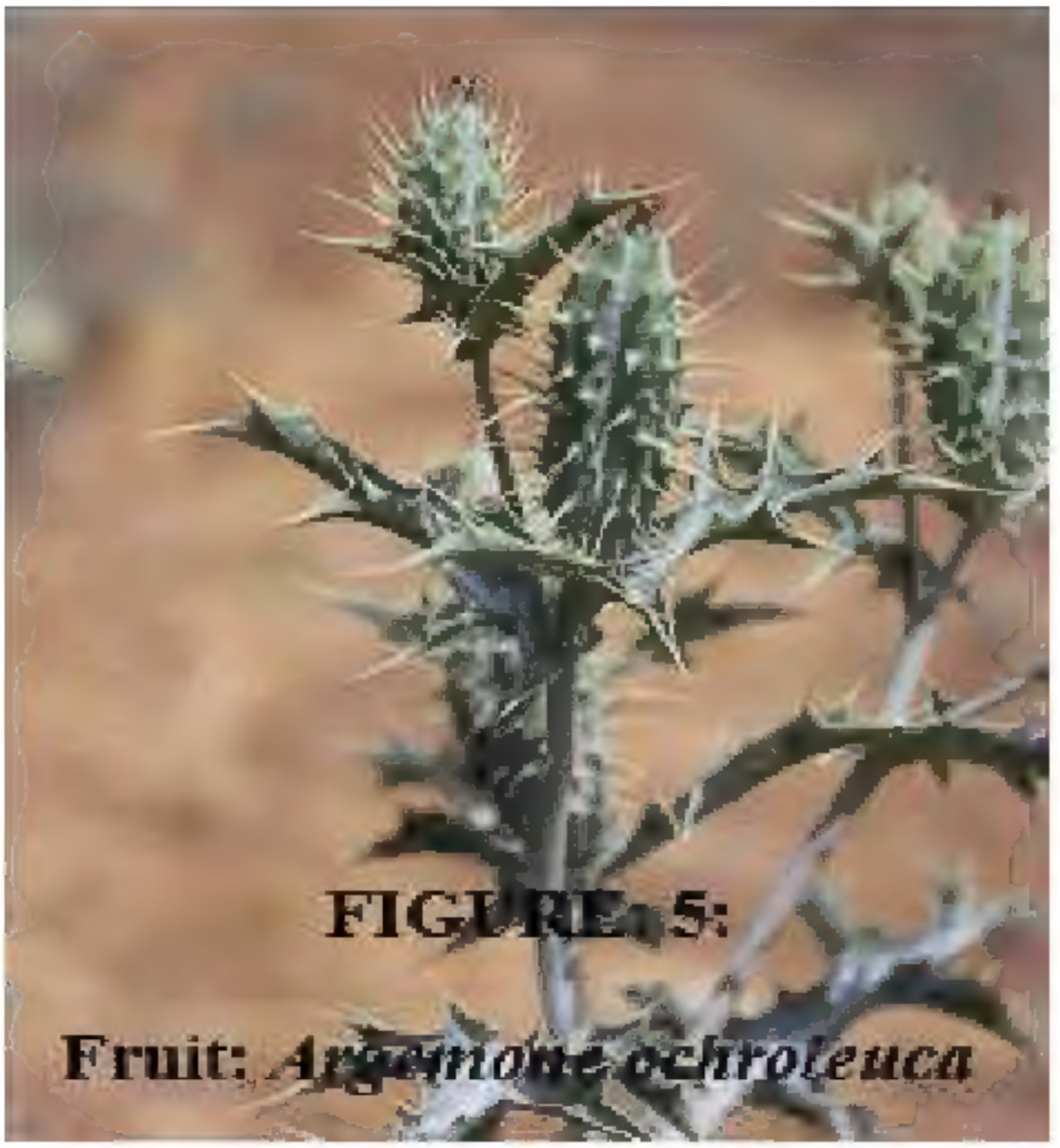

FIGURE: 5:

Fruit: *Argemone ochroleuca*

FIGURE:6:

***Argemone ochroleuca* Sweet associated with *Argemone mexicana* L.**

Argemone ochroleuca in India has previously been found in Punjab, Delhi, and Andhra Pradesh (Maheswari 1963; Reddy & Pattanaik 2007). The first record for the species in southern India was made by Ganesh Babu et al. (2006). In India it occurs as a weed in open fields and wastelands. Brief descriptions of *A. ochroleuca* are available (e.g., Ownbey 1958, 1997; Reddy & Pattanaik 2007; Queensland Govt. 2013) and a tabular morphological comparison of it and the yellow-flowered *A. mexicana* is given by Reddy and Pattanaik (2007). *Argemone ochroleuca* is native to Mexico, introduced and naturalized in the USA (Arizona), Pakistan, and many other regions of the world.

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